

lot about a vote of the people. I think I have mentioned this before, but I think that if we were to vote upon the UN-L center, if we had had the people vote on that, if the people were to vote upon the tax exemptions for the thoroughbred industry, if they were to vote upon the tax plan for business, I think we would find almost entirely negative vote. That is why we have representative government. We have to make those choices, sometimes they are not very good choices, sometimes we have to suffer for them. But the people prefer to delegate that responsibility to us and they have told us, in effect, that we are the representatives, that we must make the decision. If we make the wrong decision they will take that privilege away from us and remove us. But if we do make the right decision, hopefully, the system will work. I would urge you not to vote for the Rupp amendment. If you don't want the bill, that is up to you. I, very frankly, would rather not have the bill than to have the bill with Senator Rupp's amendment on it. So, this is not a threat, but I would withdraw my support of the bill if the Rupp amendment is attached.

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis is next, but may I introduce some guests under the south balcony, please. Senator Haberman has has some guests, they are Sharon and Bob Klendor, with their children, Colleen and Holly, from Imperial, Nebraska. Would you folks please rise. Thank you for visiting us this morning, Klendors. Senator Landis, then Senator Pappas, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think Senator Higgins raised some good points and they are legitimate, they deserve an answer. One of them is whether or not an NRD could hide behind the rhetoric that the Legislature had forced them to raise their taxes because they didn't have any notice of that, or had no hearing. The budget act of state law covers NRDs as well. They follow the same budgeting requirements as do other political subdivisions, which means notice would have to be given and published, a hearing would have to be held, it would require a resolution by this organization to establish, if you will, the underlying costs and budget that would tip the scale and, therefore, have a higher tax levy for an NRD. In other words there is a local oversight, with publicity, with opportunity to be heard, with access to a public hearing format as a counterweight to the actions of NRDs. Secondly, the Rupp amendment is unconstitutional, in my opinion, in that it gives to members of a class special treatment that it then denies to other members of the same class. This violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution, which